

John Teaches Christian Love



Day 1:

Memory Verse: **Matthew 24:44**

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at the hour you do not expect.

In our devotion last week, we studied the book of Hebrews, which shows how Jesus is better than the old covenant priests who had to offer sacrifices for sins. Because Jesus is God, he is better than any human priest because he never sinned. When he died on the cross and rose again, he made a way for sinners to come to God for forgiveness.

We also talked about heroes of faith who lived before Jesus came to earth. These heroes looked forward to the Savior and their heavenly home and showed their faith by their actions.

Which heroes did we talk about? **Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and Moses.**

This week we will talk about love. What is Valentine's Day about, showing what? **Showing love.**

The world's idea of love is based on a happy feeling that comes and goes. But the love in the Bible is different. Biblical love is all about choosing to put another person first without wanting something in return.

We're going to look in an epistle written by the Apostle John where he explains biblical love. He says you should be able to see love in a believer's life. But what kind of love should believers, or Christians, have? Let's find out.

1 John 2:15-16

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[a]—is not from the Father but is from the world.

What command did John give to believers? Do not love the what? **The world or the things in the world.**

In this verse, world means a way of living that ignores God and his commandments. It might include sinful ways of thinking about life and the things we have, such as money, popularity, and other things we buy that don't last.

If someone loves the world, the love of the Father is what? **Not in him.**
Loving the world and the things in the world will pull us away from God.

What three things did John say are in the world? **The desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life.**

A desire is something you want. The desires of the flesh include selfish desires, like wanting to be lazy or disobedient. The desires of the eyes are things we see and want to have for ourselves. The pride of life is thinking we can do everything great on our own or thinking we're the best. These desires do not come from God; they are from the world.

As Christians, our focus should not be on the world but on God. We can't love God and love the world. The heart attitude of a believer should be to put God first, above all other things. It isn't wrong to have nice things, but we must be careful not to let them become more important to us than God.

Tomorrow we will see that John also wrote that if we love God, we will keep his commandments. Obeying God shows that we love him. And as we follow his commands, we will also be loving other believers.

Day 2:

Memory Verse: Matthew 24:44

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at the hour you do not expect.

Our love for others, starts with one person. And John tells us in 1 John 3.

1 John 3:16-18

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

First, who is John talking about that laid down his life for us? **Jesus**

Who does John say believers should lay down their lives for? **The Brothers**

Brothers are other Christians-brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus is the greatest example of what love looks like. He gave up his life so sinners could come to God and be forgiven. Although we probably will not have to give our lives for someone, we may be asked to give up something we really care about to help others.

Let's read an example of helping a Christian brother in verses 17 and 18.

17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

The person in verse 17 was NOT a good example of showing God's love. He had plenty of the world's goods, but he closed his heart and wouldn't share with a brother in need.

Was he loving in deed and in truth, showing love by his actions? **No.**

What should he have done? **Used his own goods to help.**

John was saying that it's not enough to say we love others; Christian love is something we do.

If we see another believer in need of food, clothing, or something else that we can help with, we should do what we can to help.

Believers should love others not just by saying we love them but through actions, by helping one another and obeying God's commands.

We've talked about loving God and loving others. Tomorrow we will find out how we can love and where the love comes from.

Day 3:

Memory Verse: Matthew 24:44

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at the hour you do not expect.

So where does this love come from? Let's find out.

1 John 4:7

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

What are Christians commanded to do? Let us what? Let us love one another

Who is this love from? God

Love comes from God. If we know God, we can understand what love is because God first loved us when he sent Jesus to die for sinners. John tells us that this is the greatest example of love.

So love begins with God!

Only those who have turned from their sins and trusted in Jesus for salvation can show real love because they are born of God and know God.

The reason we can love is because God first showed his love to us through Jesus. Real love begins with God. Believers are commanded to show this love by putting God first above all other things in this world and by showing love to others through our actions.